

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A vacuum heat insulator comprising:
 - a core material;
 - an enveloping member covering the core material and including:
 - a heat seal layer;
 - a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and
 - a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and
 - a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;
 - wherein the heat seal layer includes a fluorine resin and has a melting point of at least 200°C, and melting points of the gas barrier layer and the protective layer are higher than that of the heat seal layer.
2. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 1, wherein at least the protective layer includes material having flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.
3. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 2, wherein the heat seal layer and the gas barrier layer include material having flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.
4. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 1, wherein the protective layer includes at least one of fluorine resin and imide resin.
- 5.-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 1, wherein the heat seal layer includes polychlorotrifluoroethylene.

8.-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 1, wherein the gas barrier layer on at least one side includes:

an aramid resin film; and

a gas barrier film including at least one of metal, metal oxide, and silica.

11. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 1, further comprising a protective member that covers the heat seal layer at least at an end face of the enveloping member and has a flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.

12. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 11, wherein the protective member includes an adhesive tape compliant to UL510 FR.

13. (Original) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 11, wherein the protective member is a flame-retardant sealer.

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a heat source at a temperature above 100°C and up to 200°C;

a member to be protected and affected by heat of the heat source; and

a vacuum heat insulator comprising:

a core material;

an enveloping member covering the core material and including:

a heat seal layer;

a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and

a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and

a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;

wherein the heat seal layer includes a fluorine resin and has a melting point of at least 200°C, and melting points of the gas barrier layer and the protective layer are higher than that of the heat seal layer, and the vacuum heat insulator blocks thermal effect of the heat source on the member to be protected.

15. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a heat source at a temperature above 100°C and below 200°C;

a member to be protected and affected by heat of the heat source; and

a vacuum heat insulator comprising:

a core material;

an enveloping member covering the core material and including:

a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and

a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and

a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;

wherein a melting point of the heat seal layer is above 100°C and below 200°C, a melting point of the protective layer is at least 200°C, at least the fin is disposed on a low-temperature side of a heat-insulating surface of the vacuum heat insulator, and the vacuum heat insulator blocks thermal effect of the heat source on the member to be protected.

16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a portion to be kept warm and heated to a temperature above 100°C and up to 200°C; and

a vacuum heat insulator comprising:
a core material;
an enveloping member covering the core material and including:
a heat seal layer;
a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and
a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and
a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;

wherein the heat seal layer includes a fluorine resin and has a melting point of at least 200°C, and melting points of the gas barrier layer and the protective layer are higher than that of the heat seal layer, and the vacuum heat insulator maintains a temperature of the portion to be kept warm.

17. (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a portion to be kept warm and heated to a temperature above 100°C and below 200°C; and
a vacuum heat insulator comprising:
a core material;
an enveloping member covering the core material and including:
a heat seal layer;
a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and
a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and
a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;
wherein a melting point of the heat seal layer is above 100°C and below 200°C, a

200°C, a melting point of the protective layer is at least 200°C, at least the fin is disposed on a low-temperature side of a heat-insulating surface of the vacuum heat insulator, and the vacuum heat insulator maintains a temperature of the portion to be kept warm.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 14 and 15~~ claim 14, wherein

the apparatus is a printing machine for fixing a toner onto a recording paper;

the heat source is a fixing unit for fixing the toner onto the recording paper;

the member to be protected includes:

a toner storage for storing the toner to be melted and fixed onto the recording paper by the fixing unit;

a transfer unit for transferring the toner onto the recording paper; and

a control unit for controlling printing operation; and

the vacuum heat insulator is provided on an outer periphery of at least one of the fixing unit, the toner storage, and the control unit.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 16 and 17~~ claim 16, wherein

the apparatus is a fixing unit for melting and fixing a toner onto a recording paper, provided in a printing machine;

the portion to be kept warm includes:

a heat-fixing roller provided in the fixing unit; and

a press-contacting roller provided in the fixing unit and bringing the recording paper into press contact with the heat-fixing roller; and

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed to surround at least one of the heat-fixing roller and the press-contacting roller.

20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 14 and 15~~ claim 14, wherein

the apparatus is a notebook type computer;

the heat source is a CPU;

the member to be protected is at least one of:

a housing forming an outer shell of the notebook type computer;

a keyboard exposed from the notebook type computer; and

a build-in accessory provided in the notebook type computer;

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least one of a space between the CPU and a bottom surface of the housing, a space between the CPU and the keyboard, and a space between the CPU and the built-in accessory.

21. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 16 and 17~~ claim 16, wherein

the apparatus is a water heater including a hot-water storage therein;

the portion to be kept warm is a heater in proximity to the hot-water storage; and

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least a portion in proximity to the heater.

22. (Previously Presented) A vacuum heat insulator comprising:

a core material;

an enveloping member covering the core material and including:

a heat seal layer;
a gas barrier layer provided outside of the heat seal layer; and
a protective layer provided outside of the gas barrier layer; and
a fin to which the enveloping member is welded;
wherein a melting point of the heat seal layer is above 100°C and below 200°C, a melting point of the protective layer is at least 200°C, and at least the fin is disposed on a low-temperature side of a heat-insulating surface of the vacuum heat insulator.

23. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22,
wherein at least the protective layer includes material having flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.
24. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 23,
wherein the heat seal layer and the gas barrier layer include material having flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.
25. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22,
wherein the protective layer includes at least one of fluorine resin and imide resin.
26. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22,
wherein the heat seal layer includes fluorine resin.
27. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 26,
wherein the heat seal layer includes polychlorotrifluoroethylene.
28. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22,

wherein the heat seal layer includes non-oriented polypropylene having a melting point of at least 150°C and below 200°C.

29. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22,

wherein the gas barrier layer on at least one side includes:

an aramid resin film; and

a gas barrier film including at least one of metal, metal oxide, and silica.

30. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 22, further comprising a protective member that covers the heat seal layer at least at an end face of the enveloping member and has flame retardance at least that of VTM-2 specified in UL94 safety standard.

31. (Previously Presented) The vacuum heat insulator according to claim 30,

wherein the protective member includes an adhesive tape compliant to UL510 FR.

32. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the apparatus is a printing machine for fixing a toner onto a recording paper;

the heat source is a fixing unit for fixing the toner onto the recording paper;

the member to be protected includes:

a toner storage for storing the toner to be melted and fixed onto the recording paper by the fixing unit;

a transfer unit for transferring the toner onto the recording paper; and

a control unit for controlling printing operation; and

the vacuum heat insulator is provided on an outer periphery of at least one of the fixing unit, the toner storage, and the control unit.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the apparatus is a fixing unit for melting and fixing a toner onto a recording paper, provided in a printing machine;

the portion to be kept warm includes:

a heat-fixing roller provided in the fixing unit; and

a press-contacting roller provided in the fixing unit and bringing the recording paper into press contact with the heat-fixing roller; and

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed to surround at least one of the heat-fixing roller and the press-contacting roller.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

the apparatus is a notebook type computer;

the heat source is a CPU;

the member to be protected is at least one of:

a housing forming an outer shell of the notebook type computer;

a keyboard exposed from the notebook type computer; and

a build-in accessory provided in the notebook type computer;

the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least one of a space between the CPU and a bottom surface of the housing, a space between the CPU and the keyboard, and a space between the CPU and the built-in accessory.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein

the apparatus is a water heater including a hot-water storage therein;

the portion to be kept warm is a heater in proximity to the hot-water storage; and

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the vacuum heat insulator is disposed in at least a portion in proximity to the heater.